

**Archbold** (continued from page 3)

The color of the trim on his dress coat was crimson, as were his Ordnance Sergeant's stripes, which consisted of three chevrons with a star in the center. He also wore a 1½ inch crimson stripe on his trousers to designate his status as sergeant. When he was initially appointed to Ordnance Sergeant, in 1856, he would have worn a shako with crimson piping, which would be replaced in 1858, or shortly after, by a dress hat with a crimson cord and bursting bomb insignia of the Ordnance Corps. For full dress occasions, he would wear a crimson sash around his waist and be armed with a non-commissioned officer's sword.

Every official document related to Ordnance Sergeant Archbold's service indicates that his character was "good" and his service efficient. When Colonel Joseph K. F. Mansfield, Inspector General, U.S.A., inspected Fort Steilacoom in December 1858, he made the following comments in his report:

"Post Ordnance and Magazine- There are 3 twelve pound mountain howitzers in excellent order placed under the portico of the magazine; 180 twelve pd stripped shot; 97 twelve pd canister shot; 145 spherical case shot, 8 shells; 20 muskets; 34 rifles; 3 pistols; 1 revolver; 29,200 percussion caps; 3,000 pistol ball cartridges; 41 blank howitzer cartridges; 20,700 rifle ball cartridges; 5,000 rifle balls; 2,000 rifle blank cartridges. The ordnance is well stored in a good wooden magazine, well constructed for the purpose, and a good ordnance sergeant has charge of the same.

(To be continued in next issue.)

**Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Road**

On November 20, Karen Meador will tell about the Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham road, constructed under the supervision of the U.S. Army in the 1850s. Quarters 2 at 2 p.m.

**FORT STEILACOOM, 1849**  
Just as all roads led to Rome, all roads in early Washington Territory led to Fort Steilacoom.

**PUYALLUP RIVER BRIDGE**  
Site of an 1856 U.S. Army blockhouse and ferry crossing; throughout the Road modern bridges were built at original ferry crossings.

**FARMHOUSE/BARN, 1906/CA. 1925**  
Small farms such as this were once common throughout the area.

**SUCH A DEAL - \$25,000**  
Iovita Land Company Raffle House - A model home built to attract buyers to the area and promote the Interurban Railway.

**SUTHERLAND'S STORE, 1931**  
A roadside grocery/gas station with mom and pop living above the store; active until 1984. Many neighbors remember buying candy here.

**WORLD WAR II DUPLEX, CA. 1945**  
This children's house was converted into a two-story duplex to accommodate the growing Boeing workforce on the eve of World War II.

**STAR LAKE INN, 1897**  
One of the last of the old roadhouses; now a neighborhood gathering spot. The core of the building was the home of the original homesteaders.

**STAR LAKE SCHOOL, 1910**  
Part of Star Lake School District #64; the building operated as a school until 1929; it was later owned by the Star Lake Improvement Club.

**GRANDVIEW HOC PARK**  
A former Nike missile launch site; active from 1955 to 1963; a number of Nike sites were built in the vicinity of Military Road in the 1950s.

**RIVERTON FARMHOUSE, 1912**  
One of the local farms that supported the Riverton TB Sanatorium, located on the opposite side of Military Road in service from 1910 through the 1960s.

**RIVERTON DAIRY BARN, 1900**  
Characteristic of the early 20th century dairy barns once common throughout the area.

**VAN ASSELT SCHOOL, 1909**  
Located on the donation claim of early pioneer Henry Van Asselt, who was instrumental in settling the area and an early advocate for road construction.

**MCCLELLAN PLACE/STREET**  
In honor of the future Civil War general who performed railroad and wagon road surveys as a junior officer assigned to the Pacific Northwest.

**WILSON MACHINE WORKS, 1926**  
Typical of small manufacturing buildings of the era; this brick structure captures the stone-chipping industrial waterfront along Elliot Ave.

**ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH SCHOOL, 1921**  
Located behind the Catholic Church; the school has been serving the Ballard community since 1907.

**BALLARD MULTI-USE, 1927**  
An L-shaped, multi-use "complex," the site features a courtyard and a row of nine brick garages - each wide enough for a Model-T!

**KENMORE COMM. CLUB, 1930**  
Launched as a "quasi-governmental" entity to provide community representation to the then-King County Commissioner.

**RED BRICK ROAD PARK, 1921**  
Built to connect Bothell with Seattle; immigrant Greek and Italian craftsmen laid each brick by hand.

**LAKE MAUBRAY STORE, 1881**  
A true general "we have everything" store, where gas comes from "two old pumps, the kind with wheels that turn rather than digital readouts."

**SAMISH HIGHWAY GARAGE, EARLY 20TH CENTURY**  
Located in Alper; a status-designated place on Old Highway 93.

**PICKETT HOUSE, 1856**  
Constructed by Capt. George E. Pickett, who lived here with his native wife and two while posted at Fort Bellingham in the late 1850s.

**FORT BELLINGHAM SITE, 1849-68**  
Constructed under the command of Captain George E. Pickett and his men from the 9th Infantry Regiment out of Fort Steilacoom.

Courtesy Karen Meador & Federal Way Historical Society

This illustrated map shows the military road route from Fort Steilacoom (Lakewood) to Fort Bellingham. It roughly follows today's I-5 with stops along the way noted in the later day photos and descriptions at the right. Karen Meador will follow this route in detail with many photographs.

# Fort Steilacoom

## William H. Archbold The Ordnance Sergeant of Fort Steilacoom

by Alan H. Archambault

A number of distinguished military officers are associated with Fort Steilacoom during the years 1849-1868. Previous articles have been written for this newsletter on commissioned officers like Silas Casey, E. Porter Alexander and August Kautz. However, we generally do not know as much about the enlisted soldiers who served at Fort Steilacoom.

In a recent article dealing with the Fort Steilacoom Post Cemetery, Kenneth Morgan mentions Sergeant William H. Archbold, who died in April 1868. Ken speculated that Sergeant Archbold was most likely the last soldier interred in the post cemetery. However, he did not have any information on his military service or death. Fortunately, information on Sergeant Archbold has been found in the military records section of the National Archives that will shed a bit more light on his service and strong connection to the history of Fort Steilacoom.

The earliest document I found relating to Sergeant Archbold was his discharge certificate dated 3 September 1854. The reason for the discharge was Archbold's fulfillment of a five year enlistment and his reenlistment in Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. According to the discharge, Archbold had enlisted on 10 October 1849 for five years. It states that he was born in Middlesex, (although some other documents list it as Middletown), Massachusetts,



Archbold was in charge of ordnance at Fort Steilacoom, which included the guns and ammunition inside the above metal-roofed magazine and the mountain howitzers outside under the portico.

and was 35 years of age and 5 feet 8 inches high. He had a fair complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. The discharge states, "The character of Sergt Archbold has been uniformly good." The document concludes with, "Given under my hand at Fort Steilacoom, W.T. this Third Day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and fifty four, D.A. Russell, 1<sup>st</sup> LT 4<sup>th</sup> Inf."

The next document in Archbold's service file is reflective of his outstanding service and abilities. It reads:

"Army of the United States of America, Ordnance Sergeant, At Fort Steilacoom, W.T., To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greetings. Know Ye, That this is to certify, that Sergeant William H., Archbold, of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry having served Faithfully, Eight years, in the Army of the United States, Four years of which in the grade of Non-commissioned Officer, and having the recommendation of his Captain, approved by the Colonel of his Regiment, as being a fit and proper person to receive the appointment of Ordnance Sergeant, the

(Continued on page 3)

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 e-mail:..info@historicfortsteilacoom.org  
 Telephone: (253) 582-5838 or 756-3928  
 Editor & Publisher ..... Orville H. Stout

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**President’s Message**



**G**reetings!

As you read this message and newsletter, the Board of Directors for the Historic Fort Steilacoom Association is gearing up for an incredible 2017 museum season!

First of all, an introduction might be necessary. I am a very familiar face for most of you, but perhaps am an unfamiliar one to those of you who have only recently joined the wonderful membership that makes up this association that maintains and supports this historic old US Army Post.

My name is Gideon Pete. I have been elected as president by your Board of Directors to take up the reins of leadership from our beloved Carol Neufeld Stout. Carol is stepping down from her long run in leading this association for a well deserved rest. Carol has done an outstanding job for us, one in which we can all be proud. I can honestly say, that in all my years with HFSA, the buildings and exhibits have never looked better. Thank you, Carol!



Alan Archambault presented an illustrated program telling about the Army’s presence and importance in this region from Fort Steilacoom to Camp Lewis and beyond.

The 2017 calendar of events is shaping up nicely. Every month we will be featuring either great activities, or fascinating guest speakers, or both! Many of these are already listed on the website, or included with our advertising folders. We still have some great surprises, however, waiting “in the wings.” Needless to say, beginning with our finale for 2016, the upcoming “Christmas at the Fort,” there will be something going on every month next year which will be of great interest to each and every one of you.

An innovative “Post Hospital” interpretation is now taking form upstairs in Quarters 3, with other new displays being developed in the works. There will even be more opportunities available in which to enjoy Living History.

If you haven’t been out in a while, or were wondering how YOU might be able to take a more active part in supporting YOUR fort, 2017 will be the year for you! I am looking forward to seeing each of you about the grounds. Y’all come on out now, hear!

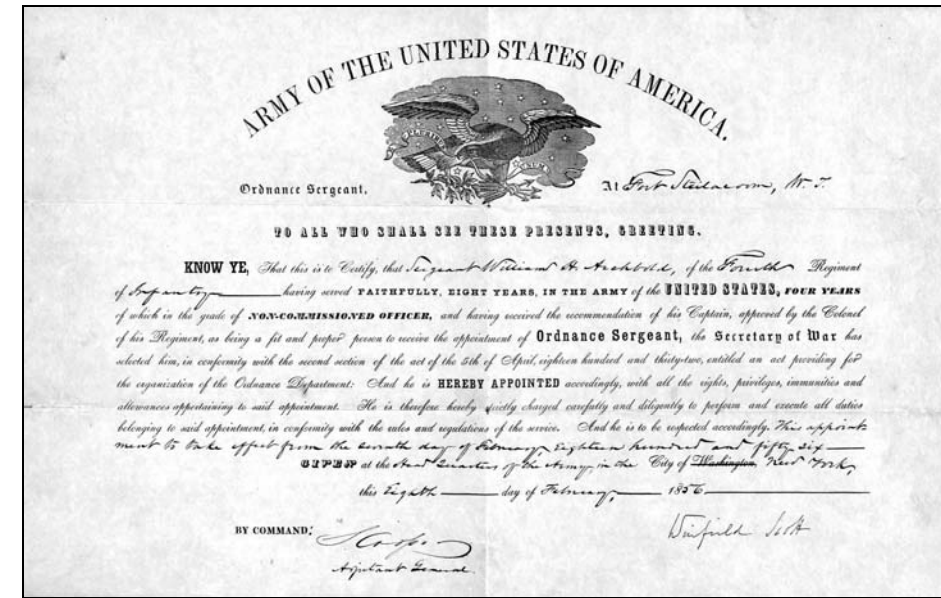
Historically yours,  
*Gideon*

**Fort Stelacoom to Camp Lewis**

On October 16, Alan Archambault gave an outstanding talk to mark the centennial of the establishment of Camp Lewis, which later became Fort Lewis and now Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Pierce County.

In 1916, leaders in the county saw a financial advantage to having a military establishment here, as there had been in the days of Fort Steilacoom. Voters decided to purchase and acquire land (some of which included a portion of the Nisqually reservation) and donate it the United States government. The government accepted the land in 1917 just prior to World War I and established Camp Lewis here.

After the war, the Army wanted to close the camp, but the gift included a clause that required that it be maintained. Financially, that was a protection for the county, but it also proved to be important when World War II broke out and the camp became Fort Lewis where thousands of troops were trained, as they still are today.



Copy of certificate appointing William H. Archbold to Ordnance Sergeant.

**Archbold** (continued from page 1)

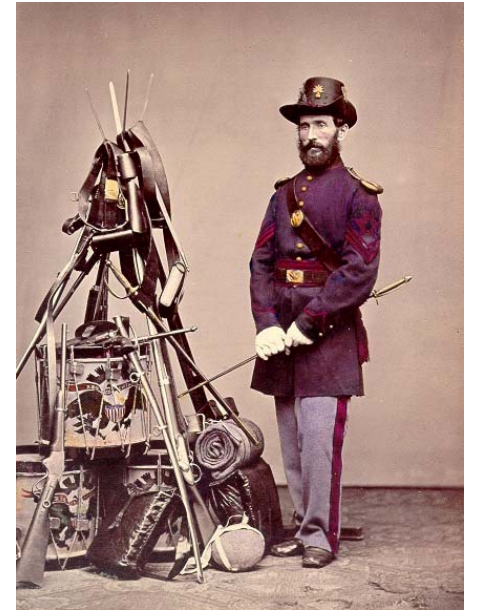
Secretary of War, has selected him, in conformity with the second section of the act of the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, eighteen hundred and forty two, entitled an act providing for the organization of the Ordnance Department: And he is Hereby Appointed accordingly with all the rights, privileges, immunities and allowances appertaining to said appointment. He is therefore strictly charged carefully and diligently to perform and execute all duties belonging to said appointment, in conformity with the duties and regulations of the service. And he is to be respected accordingly. This appointment to take effect from the seventh day of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-six given at the headquarters of the Army, in the City of New York, this Eight day of February 1856.” The document is signed by General Winfield Scott and S. Cooper, Adjutant General.

As indicated by the wording of the certificate, Archbold’s appointment to Ordnance Sergeant was an honor bestowed on few enlisted men. It would allow him to stay at Fort Steilacoom longer than any other soldier assigned to the post. Archbold would ultimately serve as Ordnance Sergeant of Fort Steilacoom from February 1856 until April 1868.

In his book, *Customs of Service for Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers*, published in 1864, August Kautz explained the position and duties of an Ordnance Sergeant:

“Ordnance Sergeant. - Each military post may have an ordnance sergeant, whose duty it is to take charge of all the surplus ordnance at the post. He is enlisted in the position and belongs to the post, and is not to be removed when the troops are changed. His pay is twenty-four dollars per month, one ration, and allowance for clothing. Ordnance Sergeants do not belong to the Ordnance Department, but to the non-commissioned staff, unattached, of the regiment or post.”

Kautz devotes several more paragraphs of his book to the various responsibilities and privileges assigned to Ordnance Sergeants that makes it clear that it was a position of importance and prestige. For instance, “Ordnance Sergeants could not be reduced to the ranks by the sentence of a court-martial; but they can be discharged from the service.” Another interesting fact is that, “an ordnance sergeant may also be placed in charge of property belonging to other departments, in the case of evacuation of the post by the troops, in which case he is required to make the prescribed returns, the same as an



Though this is not Sgt. Archbold, the tinted photo shows the typical uniform of an Ordnance Sergeant, circa 1858-1872. The trim on the coat was crimson, as was the 1½ inch stripe on the trousers.

officer, to the department to which the property appertains.”

Interestingly, as a lieutenant, August Kautz was a company officer with the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, U.S. Infantry during part of the time that William Archbold served as the Ordnance Sergeant of Fort Steilacoom. Therefore, Kautz no doubt observed, first hand, the important duties performed by Ordnance Sergeant Archbold.

Ordnance Sergeant Archbold was assigned to Fort Steilacoom but, as was the policy, served on the non-commissioned staff of the unit that was stationed at the post at any given time. Therefore, documents in his military records list the following units that he served with: Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment U.S. Infantry, Company E, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment California Volunteer Infantry (1862), Company G and K, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Washington Territory Infantry (1864), 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment U.S. Artillery (1868).

Although Archbold served on the staffs of the various units assigned to the post, he was authorized to wear the distinctive regulation uniform of an Ordnance Sergeant.